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CLAIMS

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1. A method for selectively generating a flow of gas from a open first end of a tubular body, said
5 method comprising

connecting a second end of the tubular body directly to a gas outlet of a gas compressor,
which is a piston compressor having a plurality of cylinders, the capacity of the gas compressor
being selected so as to obtain through said open free end of the tubular body a desired gas flow
rate being a flow of air used by a dentist for cleaning the teeth of a patient,

- 10 starting the operation of the compressor so as to start the gas flow, and
stopping the gas flow by stopping the operation of the compressor.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the compressor is driven by an electric motor, the
operation of the electric motor being started and stopped by actuating a switch positioned on the
15 tubular body at or adjacent to its first open end so as to control power supply to the electric
motor.

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3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the tubular body comprises a wall part being
made from a resilient material, the open first end of the tubular body being at least partly closed
20 and subsequently reopened while the compressor is still operating, so as to temporarily expand
the resilient wall part, whereby a pressure pulse may be generated.

4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the wall part defining the open first end of the tubular
body or being adjacent thereto is made from a resilient material, the open first end of the tubular
25 body being at least partly closed by compressing said resilient wall part.

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5. A method according to any of the claims 1-4, wherein liquid is selectively introduced into the open first end part of the tubular body forming a nozzle.

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6. A method according to claim 5, wherein liquid is introduced into tubular body when the gas compressor is operating.

7. A method according to claim 5, wherein the liquid is sprayed out from the open free end of the tubular body when the gas compressor is not operating.

10 8. An apparatus for selectively producing a gas flow, said apparatus comprising
a gas compressor which is a piston compressor having a plurality of cylinders and a gas inlet and a gas outlet,
an electric motor for driving the gas compressor,
means for switching the electric motor on and off, and
15 a tubular body of the type used by dentists for cleaning teeth, said tubular body having an open first end part and a second opposite end part communicating directly with the gas outlet of the compressor, the capacity of the compressor being such that a desired gas flow through the open first end part is obtained when the gas compressor is operating.

20 9. An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the switching means is positioned on the tubular body at or adjacent to the open first end of the tubular body.

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10. An apparatus according to claim 8 or 9; wherein the tubular body comprises at least one resilient wall part, manually operateable means being provided for
25 selectively closing the open end of the tubular body at least partly.

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11. An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein at least the first end part of the tubular body is made from a resilient material.

12. An apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising an outer tube section made from a stiff material and surrounding the first end part of the tubular body, the manually operateably closing means being mounted on the outer tube section.

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13. An apparatus according to *claim 11* claims 11 or 12, wherein the switching means comprise a microswitch embedded in the resilient wall of the first end part of the tubular body, the switching means being actuated when the manually operateable means are operated so as to at least partly compress and close the first end part of the tubular body.

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14. An apparatus according to any of the claims 8-13, further comprising a liquid delivery tube opening into the first end part of the tubular body, and means for selectively delivering liquid into the first end part of the tubular body via the delivery tube.

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15. An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the liquid delivery means comprise a liquid pump and an electric motor for driving the pump, the operation of the electric motor driving the pump being controlled by switch means arranged at or adjacent to the first end part of the tubular body.

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16. An apparatus according to claim 14 or 15, wherein the open end of the liquid delivery tube is directed towards the open end of the tubular body.

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17. An apparatus according to any of the claims 8-16, wherein the tubular body is in the form of a hose of a resilient material.

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18. An apparatus according to any of the claims 8-17, wherein the electric motor is a brushless DC-motor.

5 19. An apparatus according to any of the claims 8-18, wherein the piston compressor comprises a crank shaft comprising crank sections interconnected with said pistons, adjacent crank sections being flexibly interconnected by a flexible coupling device.

10 20. An apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the coupling device comprises a tubular member formed by a helically wound thread or wire, opposite ends of the tubular members being connected to adjacent, substantially aligned shaft ends of said crank sections.

21. An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein opposite open ends of the tubular member are adapted to receive and surround said respective shaft ends.

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22. An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein at least one of the opposite ends of the tubular member is adapted to frictionally engage with the peripheral surface of the respective shaft end.

23. An apparatus according to any of the claims 20-22, wherein a free end of the thread or wire extends transversely into at least one of said opposite ends of the tubular member and is received in a slot or recess formed in the corresponding shaft end.